

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Claims 1, 3-8, and 11-28 are pending. Claim 15 is withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1, 6-8 and 12-15 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3 and 4 are being amended.

After the amendments, claims 3-5, 11 and 16-28 will be pending.

Listing of Claims:

1.-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) ~~The cell according to claim 1 wherein the~~ A 293T cell useful for the production of retroviruses, wherein the cell contains an expression construct comprising DNA encoding gag, pol, and env retroviral structural proteins operably linked downstream of an EFl $\alpha$  promoter.

4. (Currently amended) ~~The cell according to claim 3, containing~~ A 293T cell useful for the production of retroviruses by expressing retroviral structural proteins gag, pol and env, wherein the cell comprises a first expression construct expressing gag and pol from an EFl $\alpha$  promoter, and a second expression construct expressing env from an EFl $\alpha$  promoter.

5. (Previously presented) The cell according to claim 3, wherein the env is derived from either an ecotropic retrovirus or an amphotropic retrovirus.

6.-10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) A cell specified by Accession No. FERM BP-6737 or FERM BP-6977 as deposited at the National Institute of Bioscience and Human-Technology in Japan.

12.-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) The cell according to claim 3, wherein a Kozak's consensus sequence is located upstream of a translation initiation codon of the DNA encoding the retroviral structural proteins in the expression construct.

17. (Previously presented) The cell according to claim 3, wherein the DNA encoding the retroviral structural proteins is linked to a DNA encoding a selective marker via an IRES sequence.

18. (Previously presented) The cell according to claim 3, wherein the DNA encoding the retroviral structural proteins is substantially free from virus genome-derived DNA other than the DNA encoding gag, pol, and env.

19. (Previously presented) A method for producing a retrovirus, the method comprising the step of introducing into the cell of claim 3 a retroviral vector DNA that lacks sequence encoding gag, pol, and env.

20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 19, in which a foreign coding sequence is included in the retroviral vector DNA.

21. (Previously presented) The cell according to claim 4, wherein the env is derived from either an ecotropic retrovirus or an amphotropic retrovirus.

22. (Previously presented) The cell according to claim 4, wherein a Kozak's consensus sequence is located upstream of a translation initiation codon of the DNA encoding the retroviral structural proteins in each of the first and second expression constructs.
23. (Previously presented) The cell according to claim 4, wherein the DNA encoding the retroviral structural proteins in each of the first and second expression constructs is linked to a DNA encoding a selective marker via an IRES sequence.
24. (Previously presented) The cell according to claim 4, wherein the DNA encoding the retroviral structural proteins in the first and second expression constructs is substantially free from virus genome-derived DNA other than the DNA encoding gag, pol, and env.
25. (Previously presented) A method for producing a retrovirus, the method comprising the step of introducing into the cell of claim 4 a retroviral vector DNA that lacks sequence encoding gag, pol, and env.
26. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 25, in which a foreign coding sequence is included in the retroviral vector DNA.
27. (Previously presented) A method for producing a retrovirus, the method comprising the step of introducing into the cell of claim 11 a retroviral vector DNA that lacks sequence encoding gag, pol, and env.
28. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 27, in which a foreign coding sequence is included in the retroviral vector DNA.